

Gods, Heroes, Love and Parties

By Peter David Smith

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GODS

The Great Chaos gave birth to Gaia, the Goddess of HERE, and Uranus, the God of THERE.

Out of Chaos came HERE and THERE.

From the marriage of HERE and THERE were born the twelvish Titans.

One of the Titans was Themis, Known as Blindfolded Justice. Themis continued into the era of the Olympians, wherein she reminded the Gods of their responsibilities.

Another was Mnemosyne, who became mother of the nine Muses and reminded the Gods of all the arts and forms of expression. Mnemosyne is the personification of the deep unconscious from which all of the Muses emerge.

Cronus, like all the Titans, was a Grand Child of the Great Chaos at the centre of all existence and a child of HERE and THERE.

Cronus had three sons, Poseidon, Hades and Zeus.

Zeus ruled the Head of the world.

Poseidon ruled the Heart of the world.

Hades ruled the Guts and Bowels of the world.

Cronus also had three daughters, Hestia, Demeter and Hera, who were able to go where they liked throughout the realms ruled by the boys. They were essentially non-different to each other.

After all the dust had settled from the hubbub of creation and all the wars between the Titans and the Gods, Zeus, the all powerful God, came down from the Head of the world to visit the land of the mortal humans.

When Zeus went travelling through the world of mortals on either side of him he brought two advisors. On his right was Athena, the Goddess of Logic and Wisdom, and, on his left was Mnemosyne, the Goddess of Memory and the Deep Unconscious.

As they walked through the world, observing the lives of mortals and seeing the things which mortals considered important, Zeus, Athena and Mnemosyne discussed their duties as Gods and their responsibility toward the human race.

Zeus accepted the counsel of Athena on matters logical and the counsel of Mnemosyne on matters remembered from the deep unconscious of the world.

After observing the lives of humans in many places and social relationships the three Gods agreed that what the world needed was a new Hero.

Mnemosyne remembered that Heroes were able to pull the stuff of reality together and embody the spirit of adventure to explore strange places and build new Wonders and Marvels. The recent Hero, Bellerophon, had been a great inspiration to the humans but his story was fading and a new Hero was needed.

Athena knew how to create the circumstances leading to the advent of a new Hero. This required a mixing of the divine with the earthly to form a hybrid who would be Son of Man and Son of God combined in one and would bring power and strength to the world of mortals. It was the duty of all Gods to help the humans in any way they could.

And so it was decided.

THE MAKING OF A HERO

The chosen human was a woman called Aethra, who had previously been courted by Bellerophon, and the chosen God was Poseidon because he ruled the Heart of the world and would give the Hero a sense of FLOW.

By a series of bewilderingly complex stratagems, Athena and Mnemosyne arranged for Aethra, after a series of farcical adventures in the wrong bedrooms and an assignation with a chariot driver in a stable, to be at last impregnated by Poseidon.

Some months later Aethra gave birth to Theseus, who grew up to be a powerful Hero and proved his strength by lifting up a rock which could be lifted by no-one else and which was covering the symbols of the Hero's birthright: A pair of sandals and a sword called "The Sword Under the Stone".

As he went about the world it became apparent that Theseus the Hero loved nothing more than the adventure, the journey, the life of the Hero, the victory over every challenger.

Ariadne was the Goddess of Puzzle Solving. She fell in love with Heroic Theseus and was determined to help in his adventures. Ariadne showed Theseus the way to always succeed in his adventures by deciphering the thread of pattern behind each mystery.

Theseus realised that Ariadne had given him the great gift of Understanding and he also realised that Ariadne loved him with all her heart but, sadly, he did not return her love. He abandoned her and followed his heart's desire ever onward, seeking the ultimate challenge, the adventure of all adventures.

Broken hearted, Ariadne went to the house of Dionysus, where the wine was always flowing.

At last, Ariadne found true love in the arms of the God of Wine and they danced throughout the universe, making party games and challenges of ever increasing surprise and joy.

WHO SHOULD MARRY WHOM

At one of Ariadne and Dionysus's parties the guests, who were all Gods, were playing "who should marry whom".

For a joke the Gods arranged a marriage for Hephaestus, the God who was the maker of tools, weapons and technology. Hephaestus was club-footed, stammering, socially awkward and a bit ugly, so the Gods thought it would be so very funny to marry Hephaestus to Aphrodite, the Goddess of Love.

Hephaestus and Aphrodite holding hands at the altar were so mismatched. Aphrodite was the most beautiful creature in all the universe. Hephaestus was very artful and clever but also funny looking. He would have been a jester if he hadn't been more important to the Gods as a weaponsmith.

Once they were married Hephaestus and Aphrodite slept together as man and wife, or more correctly as Goddess and God and they discovered that beauty and artfulness are secretly a better match than they look.

Nevertheless, the Goddess Aphrodite was meant for more than one lover and so, in the fullness of the fullness, she began to see Ares, the God of War, behind Hephaestus's back.

Even so, Aphrodite still kept Hephaestus "in the loop", if you'll pardon the expression, because they still needed his making abilities.

THE PATTERN IN THESE STORIES

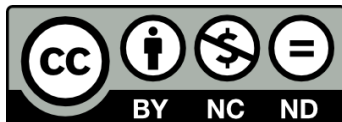
In these stories there is a triangle of Ares, Hephaestus and Aphrodite which represents the Physical Dialectic and takes place on the stage of the **Underworld Theatre** in the Multiplex of Psyche.

There is a triangle of Theseus, Ariadne and Dionysus which represents the Emotional Dialectic and takes place on the stage of the **Ocean Theatre** in the Multiplex of Psyche.

There is also a triangle of Zeus, Athena and Mnemosyne which represents the Intellectual Dialectic and takes place on the stage of the **Sky Theatre** in the Multiplex of Psyche.

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